

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-15 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An information transmission~~ distributing method using layout information for transmitting distribution of information ~~that meets the requirements corresponding to a response to a request from~~ of a user, comprising:

receiving the request from the user, and outputting a way to the user information showing ~~how the information is handled that meets the requirements is treated~~ in an information source as layout information ~~when receiving the requirements from~~ to the user;

receiving from the user, a specification designation of the information to be distributed according to that should be transmitted to the user based on the layout information; and transmitting distributing the specified designated information ~~to the user~~.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information ~~transmission~~ distributing method using layout information for transmitting distribution of information ~~that meets the requirements corresponding to a request from a user,~~ comprising:

storing a preference corresponding to for information ~~that each required by a user having a possibility of receiving information wants to obtain;~~

receiving the request from the user, and retrieving information showing ~~how~~ indicating a way the information is handled ~~that meets the requirements is treated~~ in an information source, corresponding to a request using the preference ~~when receiving the requirements from the user;~~

outputting the retrieved "how-treated-in-source handling information~~[""]~~ as layout information to the user;

receiving from the user a specification designation of the information to be distributed according to that should be transmitted to the user based on the layout information; and transmitting distributing the specified designated information.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The information ~~transmission~~ method according Claim to claim 1, wherein

said information ~~showing how~~ indicating the way the information is ~~treated~~ is handled in ~~an~~ the information source is information ~~showing the~~ about a position in the information source ~~and~~ and/or information about an importance degree in the information source.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~information transmission~~ method according ~~Claim to claim~~ claim 2, wherein

said information ~~showing how~~ indicating the way the information is ~~treated~~ is handled in ~~an~~ the information source is information ~~showing the~~ about a position in the information source ~~and~~ and/or information about an importance degree in the information source.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information receiving method using layout information for externally receiving necessary information ~~from an external party~~, comprising:  
externally outputting ~~to the external party~~ a request for specifying the information that a user is likely to require designating possibly required information;

externally receiving ~~from the external party~~ information, as layout information, ~~showing how~~ indicating a way the information that the user is likely to require is ~~treated~~ handled in an information source ~~as layout information~~;

receiving a ~~specification~~ designation of the information that ~~the~~ determined by a user decides ~~is as necessary based on~~ according to the layout information; and

externally requesting ~~the external party to transmit~~ distribution of the specified designated information ~~to the user~~.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~information receiving~~ method according ~~Claim to~~ claim 5, wherein[[,]]

said information ~~showing how~~ indicating the way the information is ~~treated~~ is handled in ~~an~~ the information source is information ~~showing the~~ about a position in the information source ~~and~~ and/or information about an importance degree in the information source.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A portable computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer for distributing information corresponding to a request from ~~capable of transmitting information that meets the requirements of a user~~, comprising the steps of by:

receiving the request from the user, and outputting a way ~~to the user~~ information ~~showing how~~ the information is handled that meets the requirements ~~is treated~~ in an information source

as layout information ~~when receiving the requirements from~~ to the user;

receiving from the user a ~~specification~~ designation of the information to be distributed  
~~according to that should be transmitted to the user based on~~ the layout information; and  
~~transmitting~~ distributing the specified designated information ~~to the user~~.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A portable computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer for externally receiving distribution of ~~capable of receiving necessary information from an external party, comprising the steps of by:~~

externally ~~outputting to the external party~~ a request for ~~specifying the information that a user is likely to require~~ designation of possibly required information;

externally ~~receiving from the external party~~ information, as layout information, showing how indicating a way the information that the user is likely to require is treated handled in an information source ~~as layout information~~;

receiving a ~~specification~~ designation of the information ~~that the~~ determined by a user decides is as necessary based on according to the layout information; and

externally ~~requesting the external party to transmit~~ distribution of the specified designated information ~~to the user~~.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~computer-readable~~ storage medium according Claim to claim 7, wherein

said information ~~showing how indicating the way the information is treated~~ is handled in an information source is information ~~showing the~~ about a position in the information source and and/or information about an importance degree in the information source.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ~~computer-readable~~ storage medium according Claim to claim 8, wherein

said information ~~showing how indicating the way the information is treated~~ is handled in ~~an~~ the information source is information ~~showing the~~ about a position in the information source and and/or information about an importance degree in the information source.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information distribution ~~transmission~~ apparatus ~~capable of transmitting~~ for distribution of information ~~that meets the requirements of~~ corresponding to a request from a user using layout information, comprising:

an a handling information retrieval unit receiving a request from the user and for

retrieving handling information showing how indicating a way the information is handled, that meets the requirements of the user is treated in the an information source, corresponding to the request;

a layout information output unit ~~for outputting to the user the retrieved "how-treated-in-source~~ handling information[""] as layout information; and

an information ~~transmission~~ distribution unit ~~for transmitting to the user the requested~~ distributing information requested for distribution according to based on the layout information to the user.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information ~~receiving~~ distribution apparatus ~~capable of receiving necessary using layout information from an external party for externally distributing necessary information,~~ comprising:

a request output unit ~~for externally outputting to a request for designation of possibly required the external party a request for specifying the information that the user is likely to require;~~

a layout information ~~receiving~~ output unit ~~for externally receiving from the external party information showing how indicating a way the information is handled that the user is likely to require is treated in an information source as layout of the possibly required information; and~~

a distribution ~~transmission~~ request unit ~~for externally requesting distribution of the external party to transmit the information that determined by a the user decides is as necessary information according to the layout information.~~

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information ~~transmission~~ distributing method for ~~transmitting distributing information corresponding to a request from a user using layout information that meets the requirements of a user,~~ comprising:

~~adding information showing how each piece of indicating a way the information is treated handled in an information source to each piece of information;~~

~~receiving a request for reading the information from a user according to the showing the "how-treated-in-source information" and outputting said information as layout information to the user;~~

~~receiving a specification of the information from the user based on the layout information; and~~

distributing transmitting the specified requested information to the user.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information distribution transmission apparatus ~~capable of transmitting for distribution of information that meets the requirements of~~ corresponding to a request from a user using layout information, comprising:

a handling information retrieval means for receiving a request from the user and for retrieving handling information showing how indicating a way the information is handled, that meets the requirements of the user is treated in the an information source, corresponding to the request;

a layout information output means for outputting to the user the retrieved "how-treated-in-source handling information[[]]" as layout information; and

an information transmission distribution means for transmitting to the user the requested distributing information requested for distribution according to based on the layout information to the user.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information receiving distribution apparatus ~~capable of receiving necessary using layout information from an external party for externally distributing necessary information~~, comprising:

a request output means for externally outputting to a request for designation of possibly required the external party a request for specifying the information that the user is likely to require;

a layout information receiving output means for externally receiving from the external party information showing how indicating a way the information is handled that the user is likely to require is treated in an information source as layout of the possibly required information; and

a distribution transmission request means for externally requesting distribution of the external party to transmit the information that determined by a the user decides is as necessary information according to the layout information.